Regular interaction is also maintained by Coast Guard with the fishing community through institutionalised community interaction programmes wherein they are provided free medical treatment and educated about aspects relating to safety at sea, use of navigation and life saving equipment.

Proposal of Pak President regarding withdrawal of Indian Troops from Siachen

2071. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent meeting between the Prime Minister and the Pak President on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly the Pak President had proposed and assured that if Indian forces withdraw from Siachen, Pakistani troops would not encroach up or occupy the vacated area/posts; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the meeting between Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President on September 24, 2004 in New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly, there was no discussion on the Siachen issue.

(b) Does not arise.

Revival of airborne Early Warning System project

2072. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the revival of Airborne Early Warning System project which was scrapped in January, 1999;

(b) whether any Committee has been constituted to study the platforms for the above system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government approved a programme for indigenous development of an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System adopting the state-of-the-art techonolgies. This is a different programme than the earlier project on Air Surveillance Platform.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A committee of experts from Indian Air Force (IAF) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was constituted in May 2002 to define system configuration, its role and broad operational requirements.

Suggestions of Kargil Review Committee

2073. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) under the Chairmanship of security expert K. Subramaniyam has suggested amalgamation and pooling of various Service Intelligence organizations to ensure synergy between the three armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the above suggestion of KRC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Kargil Review Committee (KRC), while highlighting the lack of an effective institutionalised mechanism for coordination/interaction between the intelligence agencies and users at different levels, *inter alia* recommended examination of the working of the intelligence system and also observed that the issue of setting up of an integrated Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) needs examination.

(c) Accordingly, a Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted by the Government on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The Report of the GoM on "Reforming the National Security System" was accepted by Government, a Defence Intelligence Agency was set up in February 2002 under the Integrated Defence Staff. The Intelligence Agency acts as the Coordinator of the intelligence organizations of all the three Services.

Networking in naval forces

2074. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether networking in naval forces has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?